



31 October 1951

Dr. T. R. McConnell  
Chancellor  
The University of Buffalo  
Buffalo 11, New York

Dear Dr. McConnell:

Thank you for your most cordial letter inviting me to participate in the Niagara Frontier Convocation on December seventh.

I am highly honored by your invitation and only wish it were possible to accept. However, since I have been on this job I have tried to be as anonymous as possible and, as a result, have declined such invitations to speak as I have received except those from the national or service war colleges where education is a matter of duty and audiences are strictly limited. I know you will appreciate that my participation in a program such as you plan would hardly contribute to the anonymity which is a requisite of this job.

The compliment implied by your invitation is deeply appreciated and I am indeed sorry that circumstances compel me to decline.

All best wishes for a successful Convocation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter B. Smith".

Walter B. Smith  
Director

3 cc - Signer (reading  
personal  
official) ✓

STAT